

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 stand rejected.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 1-8 are objected to because of certain informalities. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, claims 1 and 16 have been amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102**

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Swartz (U.S. 6,871,786).

The present invention is a bar code reader which has a first circuit board on which a photodiode is placed. The photodiode receives light reflected from a bar code. The bar code reader also has a second circuit board on which a processing unit is placed. The processing unit processes the signal output from the photodiode. The position at which the first circuit board is placed can be decided irrespective of the position at which the second circuit board is placed. The first circuit board is placed at a position that is most suitable for receiving light reflected from the bar code.

Swartz et al. describes a bar code scanner having a photodetector and a processor. In column 6, lines 45-56 Swartz et al. states,

“In all of the various embodiments, the elements of the scanner may be assembled into a very compact package that allows **the scanner to be fabricated as a single printed circuit board or integral module**. Such a module can interchangeably be used as the laser scanning element for a variety of different types of data acquisition and printer systems. For example, **the module may be** alternately used in a hand-held scanner, a table top scanner attached to a flexible arm or mounting extending over the surface of the table or attached to the underside of the table top, or **mounted as a subcomponent or subassembly of a more sophisticated data acquisition and printing system**.

The Examiner asserts on page 3 of the Office Action and in the Response to the Arguments section of that modules and subassemblies can be considered separate circuit boards. However, as indicated above the scanner of Swartz is a single circuit board which may be incorporated into a more complex module or subassembly. Swartz does not teach that “the first circuit board is separate and distinct from the second circuit board” as recited in claims 1 and 16.

However, in order to emphasis this point claims 1 and 16 have been amended to indicate that “the position of the first circuit board is placed in the bar code reader irrespective of the position of the second circuit board.” Therefore, claims 1 and 16 patentably distinguish over the prior art relied upon by reciting, as exemplified by claim 1,

“A bar-code reader comprising: a first arrangement to mount a converting element that receives a light reflected from a bar code and converts the light received to an electric signal; and a second arrangement to mount a processing unit that reproduces the bar code from the electric signal, wherein the first arrangement is a first circuit board and the second arrangement is a second circuit board in which **the first circuit board is separate and distinct from the second circuit board** and the first circuit board is positioned in the bar code reader so as to optimize the reception of light reflected from the bar code, **wherein the position of the first circuit board is placed in the bar code reader irrespective of the position of the second circuit board**.”  
(Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Swartz (U.S. 6,871,786) is respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103**

Claims 4-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz (U.S. 6,871,786) in view of Komozo (U.S. 5,663,552).

Komizo describes a portable information terminal having an image processing function.

Claim 16 is amended in a similar manner to the amendment provided for claim 1. Specifically, neither Swartz et al. nor Komizo describe that the position of the first circuit board is placed in the bar code reader irrespective of the position of the second circuit board. Therefore, for the reasons previously stated withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz (U.S. 6,871,786) in view of Komozo (U.S. 5,663,552) is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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